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14th Transportation Battalion Soldiers vie for top spot in 'Warrior Challenge'

Story by Joyce Costello USAG Livorno Public Affairs

CAMP DARBY, Italy – The 21st Theater Sustainment Command's 14th Transportation Battalion hosted a "Warrior Challenge" event at Camp Darby, Italy, Nov. 20. Soldiers from Camp Darby, Vicenza and Aviano Air Base took part in the grueling competition.

Nine teams started at 3 a.m. with no breaks between events and beefed up challenges, said Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Runnels, the 14th Trans. Bn. command sergeant major.

"This challenge was about not being scared of that which lies in front of you," said Runnels.

It's a balance between physical fitness and tactical skills. This challenge



OYCE COSTELLO

Staff Sgt. Christopher Lemine (left), Pfc. Amanda Tribble (on litter) and Pfc. Tim Hocut, 511th Military Police Platoon, tackle the obstacle course during "Warrior Challenge" at Camp Darby, Italy, Nov. 20. The team went on to win the 14th Transportation Battalion event.

was designed to encourage the troops to push themselves to excel, he said.

"We had to do some hard core training – constantly doing ruck marches, working on our liter carrying and five gallon water bucket carries," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Lemine, a member of the winning team from the 511th Military Police Platoon, 14th Trans. Bn., 21st TSC. "But all the hard work really helped build a relationship within our team and increased our drive and mission first attitude."

Teammate Pfc. Amanda Tribble added that she initially had not planned in taking part of the challenge, but was motivated by her noncommissioned officer to train up and was glad that she faced her fears.

"During the ruck march all of my blisters from training were really painful, but I dug deep and kept going for the team," said Tribble.

"Motivating each other and team work helps to build confidence in yourself and your team," said Pfc. Tim Hocut, 511th MP Warrior Challenge winner. "We came out to win ... and beat the lieutenant team, and we did."

The 511th MPs now have bragging rights and the warrior challenge streamer on their unit guidon.